



ENCORE SINGERS at the RARS Christmas Party

The Exciter

The ***Exciter*** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is first Friday of the month or Friday after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friend-ship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

EXCITER EDITOR: **Denyse Walter**
 K4DAW
 919-468-5358
 k4daw@nc.rr.com



OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: **Dick Bitner W8HYD**
 919-872-6802
 ncsol@bellsouth.net

VICE-PRESIDENT **Salene Montgomery**
 919-577-1254
 kg4rmt@earthlink.net

SECRETARY: **Dick Orander KD4ISC**
 919-469-5322
 kd4isc@arrl.net

TREASURER: **Greg Seamster KE4PAX**
 919-859-0029
 ke4pax@arrl.net

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:
145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
224.64 (Temporarily off the air)
444.525 (82.5 PL)

WEB SITE www.rars.org



FRONT COVER:

The RARS Christmas party was December 6, with the Encore Singers and Bruce KC4UQN on the sound board.

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: ***Every first Tuesday of the Month***

Location: ***Forest Hills Baptist
Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark
Avenue, in Raleigh***

Time: ***7:30pm. Folks start showing up a
bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat
donuts.***

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID, the original and a copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to www.rars.org for more information.

*The Exciter goes to the printer the first
Monday after the general meeting.
Electronic mailing is the same week.
Printing and mailing may vary.*

TECHNICAL & TRADERS NET– Saturday
evenings on 146.64 after the 8:00pm
RARS net

RARS DUES

**You can pay RARS dues online at the RARS
website: www.rars.org, or send a check to
Greg Seamster KE4PAX
1405 Leanne Ct.
Raleigh, NC 27606**

Announcements

NEXT RARS MEETING: Tuesday, January 3, 2005 7:30 pm

Presentation by Bob Conder, K4RLC on his
Katrina aftermath experiences and emergency preparedness

New Members

We would like to welcome the following
new members to RARS. Thank you for
considering us for your amateur radio club.

KI4MMT Robert (new ham in November)

KG4JKL Charles

KI4MMV Chris (new ham November)

NETS

VOIP Hurricane net held Saturday 7:00pm
on 440 Carolina linking system. [http://
www.carolina440.net/repeaters_on_link.htm](http://www.carolina440.net/repeaters_on_link.htm)

NCVOIP for North Carolina also held on the
440 Carolina linking system on Sunday
7:00pm.

NEWS HOUR

For those interested, the most recent 4 editions of the
RARS News Hour audio is now available on line at
[http://www.wa4bpj.com/Ham_Radio/
RARS_News_Hour/RARS_News_Hour.htm](http://www.wa4bpj.com/Ham_Radio/RARS_News_Hour/RARS_News_Hour.htm) Each
week, I'll post the current news hour file and keep the
most recent four. Each file is about 8 MB and the play-
ing time is approximately 45minutes. 73, Mike,
WA4BPJ

RARS DINNER

Come join us on the **2nd** Tuesday of
each month. We are currently meeting
at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood
Avenue. People start arriving around
6:30pm., and things usually wind down
by 8pm or so. You can come whenever
it's convenient for you. This gathering
is open to anyone, RARS and non-
RARS members, adults and children
alike. Hope to see you there.

HAMFEST CALENDAR

January 7	Winston-Salem NC
February 19	Richmond, VA
February 25	Elkin, NC
March 11-12	Charlotte, NC
April 2	Kinston, NC
April 15	Morganton, NC
April 23	RALEIGH, NC
May 13*	Eden, NC
May 20	Williamston, NC
May 19-21	Dayton, OH
May 20	Greenville, NC
May 27*	Durham, NC
June 24-25	FIELD DAY

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal

*Date is not confirmed



Emergency Amateur Radio in the Aftermath of
Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
Dr. Bob Conder K4RLC

-Last month, I was deployed by the American Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Assistance Team to the Mississippi Gulf coast to help with Hurricane Katrina relief. While I had also volunteered with ARES, the Red Cross called first. However, one of my goals was to meet hams providing disaster assistance, and to document their efforts. Below is a summary of ham radio activity in a Level 5 disaster area.

-Montgomery, Alabama was the Red Cross staging area for all activities in Alabama and Mississippi and parts of Louisiana. When we arrived at the old KMART building (turned into the Red Cross HQ there) via a chartered bus, I saw a B&W Folded Dipole on the roof, along with a few VHF antennas. I knew hams were near. Inside, I met Dennis K7BV, an ARRL staffer who had brought his entire HF station from Newington. This included an ICOM IC-756ProII and a Heathkit amplifier. Dennis explained that the amp was needed due to the solar flares in early and mid September. Dennis was joined by Fred W2FMB who had volunteered from New Jersey and Greg W4OZK, Alabama section manager, among other hams I didn't have a chance to meet.

-Immediately after Katrina and for several weeks, the usual infrastructure of telephones, electricity, cell phones and a clean water supply was obliterated. The hams in Montgomery took traffic by HF from the Red Cross centers in the Gulf. This traffic included needs for supplies and personnel to staff the Red Cross facilities, and emergency, but not health and welfare traffic.

-One of the main contacts in the Gulf for Montgomery was the Red Cross HQ in Biloxi, Mississippi, at that time located at the Joppa Shriner's Temple. When I arrived, the Cumberland County (TN) Emergency Communications Group had their beautiful AirStream trailer in the back of the shrine. They also had a B&W Folded Dipole (run out over a small tent city) and several VHF antennas. Since they had been deployed right after Katrina hit, they were rotated out and replaced by Robert N8TVU, ARES DEC for the Cincinnati area. Robert, a retired Deputy Sheriff, had a smaller comm trailer with more antennae per square inch on the top of the trailer, and more radios per square inch inside the trailer than I had ever seen. He had outfitted the equipment himself, and told his wife it kept him out of trouble in his retirement, hi hi. Robert had a full complement of radios, including HF, VHF, UHF, a portable VHF repeater and Motorola commercial radios for the Red Cross frequencies. Outside, he had a hydraulic tower, the type used by mobile TV stations, with a crossbar for his VHF antenna. It also



was the apex for a simple

ladder line dipole.

-Out in the field, I met two hams whom I consider heroic. The first was Ed, W4AGA, who set up a complete HF and VHF station in a football stadium used as a large tent city for displaced persons in East Biloxi. This may not sound like much, but Ed only has one leg, being an amputee.

-Finally, way west at the Mississippi-Louisiana border is Pearlington, which was really ground zero for Hurricane Katrina. In fact,

the Emergency Operations Center and the Police and Fire Departments there had been completely destroyed. Hams there dispatched police, fire and EMS over 146.55, performing life saving activities. Richard N6DWC, was one such ham who had been sleeping on the floor of the High School EOC for weeks, and who rode out Hurricane Rita as she spread gale force winds east in the Mississippi Gulf.

-Overall, radio communications was limited to point to point simplex, both HF and VHF. All repeaters in the Gulf had been blown to who knows where, except for the Gulfport repeater.

Its use was limited to emergency traffic for weeks. Any Internet radio services, such as Echolink and IRLP, were not working, given the damage to the communications infrastructure.

-In terms of damage, all along the coast from East Biloxi to Pearlington on the Louisiana border, it looked like someone had nuked the area, for blocks back from the water. I was humbled by the folks who had lost their homes, jobs, possessions, and many had lost friends and relatives. But, they were resilient, trying to spring back in the face of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, known as the worst natural disaster in America's history.

-Although the radio needs after Katrina were extreme, there are obvious implications for our equipment preparation. Now is the time to take an inventory of your shack, and decide what you need to make it Disaster proof. Also, if you wish to provide EmComm in the field, now is the time to make your shack portable, including a portable generator, batteries, and antenna. Additionally, consider taking the Level One Emergency Communications course from ARRL. This course offers great information on EmComm not readily available elsewhere.

-My complete story of ham radio emergency communications after Katrina and Rita will be published in the December/January edition of the SERA Journal. I hope you will read it and find it interesting.



LOOKing Back 30 Years

From the January 1976 Exciter

RARS has experienced some growth which is now 135 members. Officers for 1976 were Chuck Littlewood, W4RUH as President. Jim Leatherwood WA4BOV, was installed as Secretary. Jim Chamberlin gave a presentation on the fast growing hobby involving microprocessors.



LOOKing Back 10 Years

From the January 1996 Exciter

A tone control board has been installed on the 146.64 that provides switching of a PL tone with receiver activity. It also provides a distinctive tone to alert control operators when the repeater is operating on battery backup. The tone control board also improves the repeaters usefulness with a cross-band repeater.

There were 21 graduates from the recent RARS class.

ARRL TOY DRIVE THANK YOU

Once again, the ARRL sponsored a TOY DRIVE to bring holiday joy to children affected by the hurricanes. Contributions were accepted at the November RARS meeting, the November RARS dinner, the November Board meeting, and by mail. The total raised was \$534.00. Thank you to everyone who helped.



NET REPORTS FOR November 2005

8:00pm DAILY: RARS Evening Net
RARS 2 Meter Traffic/Ragchew
net:

Checkins: 411
Traffic: 33/30
Minutes: 736
Sessions: 30

Special Interest Nets:
Checkins: 60
Minutes: 320
Sessions: 8

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Robert	N4GEB	01/01
Chuck	K4HF	01/04
Jerry	KE4TTS	01/04
John	N4YRD	01/08
Jim	N4CAE	01/09
Beth	KF4QMR	01/09
Paul	KE4TMN	01/10
Jim	KI4HQO	01/19
Johnnie	WA9SZL	01/19
Craig	N4XOT	01/23
Alan	AB4OZ	01/30
Cyndi	KD4ACW	01/30

2005 Board Members: Standing: Dick KD4ISC, Greg KE4PAX, Salene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM, Chuck K4HF, Mary Jo K4MJL, Jon KG4ZVT, Andy NI4S, Bernard W4BRB, Denyse K4DAW, Jim K4FIJ, Mary KG4OQA Dick W8HYD. Thank you Andy for a great year as President.



JARSFEST 2005—Held November 20 in Benson, NC. Rain deterred the tailgate sales, but several people moved inside. The sales were good and everyone had a great time. See you next year.



Photos by
Gary KN4AQ

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for December 2005

The December meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on December 6, 2005 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail. Members gathered and shared holiday refreshments and a few minutes of fellowship prior to the official start of the meeting.

President Andy Peterson, NI4S, called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm and welcomed guests.

Andy NI4S announced the Central Carolina Skywarn Net will be held tonight at 9:15pm on the 146.88 repeater. Kermit Keeter from the NWS will be a guest on the net and speak about the winter weather outlook. All are invited to participate.

Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, reported that our participation in the ARRL Toy Drive collection was a success. A total of \$534 was collected from RARS members and local hams. Selene then announced that the January club program will be presented by Bob Conder, K4RLC. Bob will talk about his experiences with assisting those affected by hurricane Katrina and provide insight on emergency preparedness.

In the interest of time, Andy NI4S referred members with questions about this month's Treasurer's report to Greg Seamster, KE4PAX.

Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, was given the floor to officiate the installation of the elected officers, Board members and chairpersons. The following members were asked to stand at the front of the room when their office and term was announced:

- Officers for two year terms:
 - President – Dick Bitner W8HYD
 - Secretary – Dick Orander KD4ISC
- Officer for one year term (completing the term vacated by Dick Bitner W8HYD):
 - Vice President - Selene Montgomery KG4RMT
- Board Members for one year term:
 - Public Information Officer – Gary Pearce KN4AQ
 - RARS 2006 Hamfest Chair – Hank Montgomery K4HM
 - RARS Exciter Editor – Denyse Walter K4DAW
 - RARS Net Manager – Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA
 - At-Large Director – Johnnie Mayfield WA9SZL
 - At-Large Director – Jim Walter K4FIJ
 - FM Repeater Chair – Gary Pearce KN4AQ
 - RARS Membership Chair – Denyse Walter K4DAW
 - ARRL Liaison – Chuck Littlewood K4HF
 - W4DW / W4RNC Trustee – Jeff Wittich AC4ZO

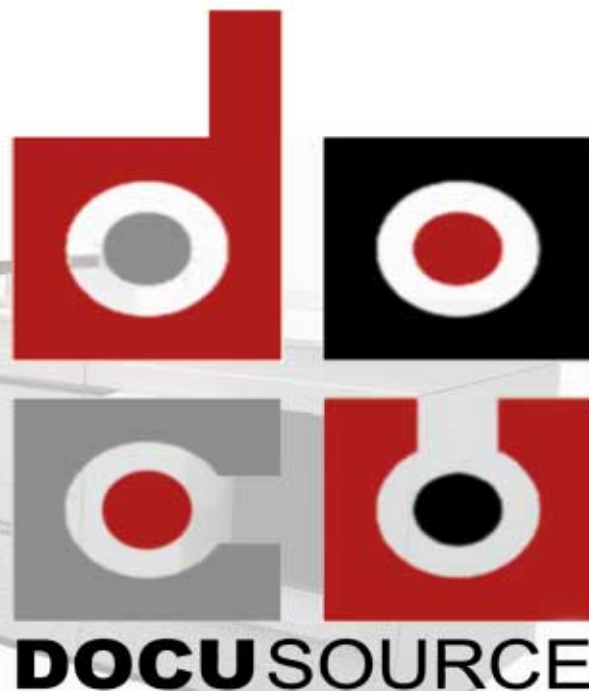
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Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for December 2005 (Continued)

RARS VE Coordinators – Liz White KO4CK and Joe White WA4GIR
RARS Webmaster – Jon Kerfoot KG4ZVT

The members then took their oath of office.

Chuck K4HF announced a meeting of the Quarter Century Wireless Association will be held next Saturday (December 10) near Greensboro. Anyone interested in attending can contact him for more details.

Andy NI4S ceremoniously passed along the RARS gavel to the newly sworn club president Dick Bitner, W8HYD.

Members were reminded that since RARS is a non-profit organization, club dues are tax deductible.

The meeting was turned over to the Encore Singers who provided a festive and musical holiday presentation for the group to enjoy.

The door prize was won by Neal Fisher, N4HAF.

Members were advised that the online version of the Exciter has additional photos that were not included in the printed edition. Log on to the club website (www.rars.org) to access the online Exciter.

A round of applause was given to all who contributed to this evening's holiday treats.

Attendance: 47.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Dick Orander, KD4ISC

RARS Secretary



Photos by Denyse K4DAW

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for October 2005

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on October 18, 2005 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Dick Bitner, W8HYD, Hank Montgomery, K4HM, Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, Denyse Walter, K4DAW, Jim Walter, K4FIJ, Jon Kerfoot, KG4ZVT, Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, Bernard Blackmon, W4BRB and Dick Orander, KD4ISC. Others – Mary Jo Littlewood, K4MJL and Rod Thomson, KI4LSN.

Vice President Dick Bitner, W8HYD called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

On a motion from Hank K4HM and second by Jim K4FIJ, the September Board meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

Officers' Reports

Dick KD4ISC read the Treasurer's report that had been emailed to the group prior to the meeting. RARS currently has 243 members.

Dick W8HYD provided the Vice President's report.

- The search is still on for a location to hold another technician class.
 - RARS is back on the church's schedule and our meetings are on the calendar.
 - The November general meeting program will be on RF safety and an update will be provided on the Powell Elementary School ham radio project.
- The December meeting will be the annual holiday party.

Committee Reports

Education – Dick W8HYD reported there is continued interest in a technician class. Once a location is secured a class can be conducted.

Exciter – Denyse K4DAW announced the membership roster will be included in the next edition of the club's newsletter.

Net Manager – Denyse K4DAW is requesting assistance in calling the 8 pm net on the Tuesday night that the Board meets.

Webmaster – Jon KG4ZVT advised that updates are going well and that he has been busy with State Fair radio scheduling activities on the webpage.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM reported that the first meeting for next year's hamfest was held on September 26. While this year's fest will be at the fairgrounds, the group is beginning to think about alternative locations for the future. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 24 when budget work will begin.

Public Service – Dick KD4ISC reported there was good ham radio coverage for the recent Autism Ribbon Run in downtown Raleigh. The Inside-Out 10K run is coming up and is being coordinated by Bill Cole KG4CXY. Chuck K4HF reported that radio coverage for the Red Cross at the State Fair is going well. He introduced Rod Thomson, KI4LSN, who has already jumped in and helped at the fair. The Board passed

along their thanks for Chuck's efforts in taking on this year's State Fair coordination.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF advised the ARRL has had good exposure with the publicity that ham radio has received during the hurricane assistance efforts.

At-large – Selene KG4RMT asked if the Board would be meeting in December. The group decided to take the usual holiday break and cancel the December meeting.

Nominating committee – Chuck K4HF reported the minutes from the previous meeting reflect the nominees that will be presented at the next general meeting. Dick W8HYD will be nominated for the position of club President. This year's nominations include only two At-large positions. These are flexible positions that can be utilized as needed. Chuck reminded the group of the by-law requirement that nominees must be club members for at least one year before they are eligible for a Board position. Discussion followed on the continued pursuit of Public Service and Education Directors.

Unfinished Business

Dick W8HYD reported that the Treasurer was taking care of the club's donation to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.

New Business

Selene KG4RMT reported the ARRL was sponsoring another holiday toy drive for the children affected by the recent hurricanes. The drive is based out of Memphis this year. She is interested in coordinating this event for RARS and due to logistics, would like to collect only money/checks from our membership. After a brief discussion, the group liked the idea of participating in the toy drive through the collection of money and would announce the event to the membership. Members would be urged to contribute at the November RARS meeting, RARS dinner and by mailing checks to Selene. A QSL or 3x5 card with the contributor's call and name should be included with the donation.

General Comments

Dick W8HYD advised that Larry Royster, KI4FYR, has withdrawn his request for RARS to sign a MOU for local repeater owners and trustees.

Dick KD4ISC reported that he had sent a sympathy card on behalf of RARS to the family of John Swain, W4JPS. He asked what else the club should do in memory of John. It was agreed that a donation should be made to Hospice (as requested by John's family). Dick will follow up with Greg KE4PAX to see that a donation is made.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

MEET THE MEMBERS



Name: Mary Jo Littlewood

Callsign: K4MJL

Residence: Quail Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC

When and why I became a ham: Long time association with the hobby through my husband, K4HF.

Equipment owned: ICOM 208H

Other Hobbies:

Music, reading, involvement with grandchildren, volunteering with church activities and enjoying retirement.

Mary Jo is the Hamfest Social Manager

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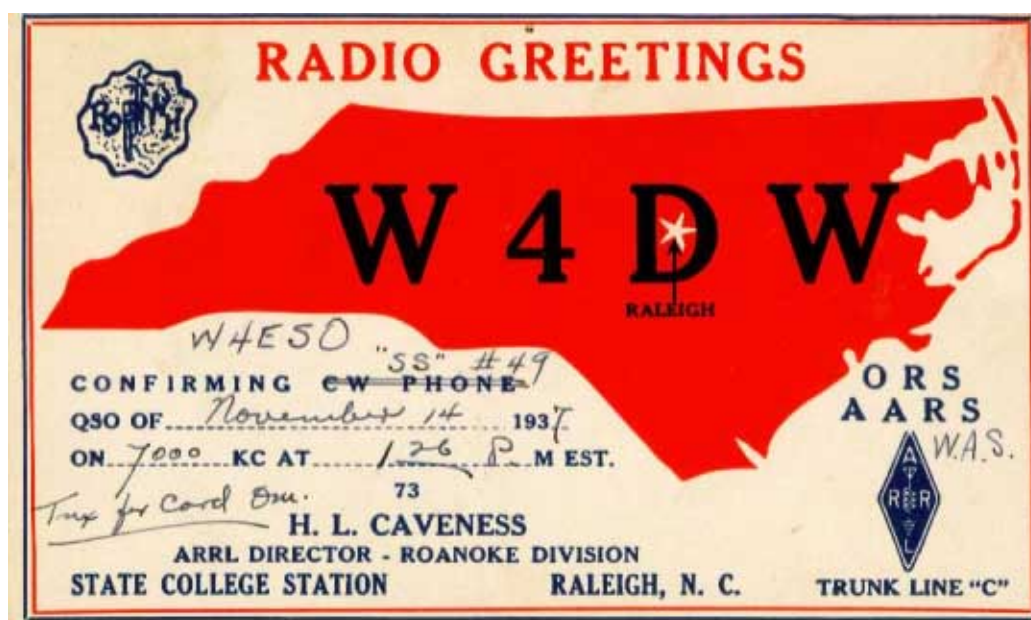
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Special QSL Card



1937 W4DW QSL card belongs to Frank Spencer, W4ESO, Ayden, NC. He knew H. L. Caveness very well. Frank grew up in Goldsboro and recently moved to Ayden and joined the Brightleaf ARC. He went to college at NC State and operated W4ATC. He just returned to NC after living in several states of which his last QTH was California. QSL courtesy of Dave, W4YDY

First editor of the RARS News and Charter member of RARS